

## **DRILLED SOLDIER PILE RETAINING WALL**

Effective: September 20, 2001

Revised: May 16, 2006

Description. This work shall consist of providing all labor, materials, and equipment necessary to fabricate and furnish the soldier piles, create and maintain the shaft excavations, set and brace the soldier piles into position and encase the soldier piles in concrete to the specified elevation. Also included in this work is the backfilling of the remainder of the shaft excavation with Controlled Low-Strength Material (CLSM), the furnishing and installation of the timber lagging, and the furnishing and installation of CLSM secant lagging. All work shall be according to the details shown on the plans and as directed by the Engineer.

The remainder of the retaining wall components as shown on the plans, such as concrete facing, shear studs, reinforcement bars, tie backs, hand rails, and various drainage items etc., are not included in this Special Provision but are paid for as specified elsewhere in this Contract.

Materials. The materials used for the soldier piles and lagging shall satisfy the following requirements:

- (a) The structural steel components for the soldier piles shall conform to the requirements of AASHTO M270, Grade 250 (36), unless otherwise designated on the plans.
- (b) The soldier pile encasement concrete shall be portland cement concrete according to Section 1020, except the mix design shall be as follows:
  - (1) A Type I or II cement shall be used at 395 kg/cu m (665 lb/cu yd). When the plans specify that soil and ground water sulfate contaminates exceed 500 parts per million, a Type V cement shall be required. The cement shall be increased 35 kg/cu m (60 lb/cu yd) if the concrete is to be placed under water.
  - (2) Class C or F fly ash may replace Type I or II cement. The cement replacement shall not exceed 15 percent by mass (weight) at a minimum replacement ratio of 1.5:1. The fly ash shall not be used in combination with ground granulated blast-furnace slag.
  - (3) Grade 100 or 120 ground granulated blast-furnace slag may replace Type I or II cement. The cement replacement shall not exceed 25 percent by mass (weight) at a minimum replacement ratio of 1:1. The ground granulated blast-furnace slag shall not be used in combination with fly ash.
  - (4) The maximum water/cement ratio shall be 0.44.
  - (5) The mortar factor shall be a value which produces a coarse aggregate content comprising between 55 and 65 percent of total aggregate by mass (weight).
  - (6) The slump at point of placement shall be 175 mm  $\pm$  25 mm (7  $\pm$  1 in.). If concrete is placed to displace drilling fluid or against temporary casing, the slump shall be 200

mm  $\pm$  25 mm (8  $\pm$  1 in.) at point of placement. The concrete mix shall be designed to remain fluid throughout the anticipated duration of the pour plus 1 hour.

- (7) An air entraining admixture shall be required and the air content range shall be 4.0 to 7.0 percent.
  - (8) The minimum compressive strength shall be 27,500 kPa (4000 psi) at 14 days. The minimum flexural strength shall be 4,650 kPa (675 psi) at 14 days.
  - (9) A retarding admixture shall be required.
  - (10) A water-reducing or high range water-reducing admixture shall be required.
  - (11) An accelerating admixture may be used with the permission of the Engineer in extraordinary situations.
  - (12) The coarse aggregate shall be CA 13, CA 14, CA 16 or a blend of these gradations. The fine aggregate shall consist of sand only according to Article 1003.01(a).
- (c) The Controlled Low-Strength Material (CLSM), used for backfilling shaft excavations above the soldier pile encasement concrete and for backfilling secant lagging excavations, to the existing ground surface, shall be according to the Recurring Special Provisions for CLSM.
- (d) Temporary casing shall be produced by electric seam, butt, or spiral welding to produce a smooth wall surface, fabricated from steel satisfying ASTM A252 Grade 2. The minimum wall thickness shall be as required to resist the anticipated installation and dewatering stresses, as determined by the Contractor, but in no case less than 6 mm (1/4 in.).
- (e) Drilling slurry shall consist of a polymer or mineral base material. Mineral slurry shall have both a mineral grain size that will remain in suspension with sufficient viscosity and gel characteristics to transport excavated material to a suitable screening system. The percentage and specific gravity of the material used to make the suspension shall be sufficient to maintain the stability of the excavation and to allow proper concrete placement. For polymer slurry, the calcium hardness of the mixing water shall not exceed 100 mg/L.
- (f) Timber Lagging. The minimum tabulated unit stress in bending ( $F_b$ ), used for the design of the timber lagging, shall be 6.9 MPa (1000 psi) unless otherwise specified on the plans. When treated timber lagging is specified on the plans, the method of treatment shall be according to Article 1007.12.

Equipment. The drilling equipment shall have adequate capacity, including power, torque and down thrust, to create a shaft excavation of the maximum diameter specified to a depth of 20 percent beyond the depths shown on the plans. Concrete equipment shall be according to Article 1020.03.

Construction Requirements. The shaft excavation for each soldier pile shall extend to the tip elevation indicated on the plans for soldier piles terminating in soil or to the required embedment in rock when rock is indicated on the contract plans. The Contractor shall satisfy the following requirements:

(a) Drilling Methods. The soldier pile installation may involve the use of one or more of the following drilling methods to maintain excavation side wall stability during the various phases of shaft excavation and concrete placement, dependent on the site conditions encountered:

(1) Dry Method. The dry method consists of drilling the shaft excavation, removing accumulated water and loose material from the excavation, placing the soldier pile and concrete in a predominately dry excavation. This method shall be used only at sites where the groundwater and soil conditions are suitable to permit the drilling and dewatering of the excavation without causing excessive water infiltration, boiling, squeezing, or caving of the excavation side walls. This method allows the concrete placement by tremie or concrete pumps, or if the excavation can be dewatered, the concrete can be placed by free fall.

(2) Wet Method. The wet construction method may be used at sites where dewatering the excavation would cause collapse of the excavation sidewalls or when the volume and head of water flowing into the shaft excavation is likely to contaminate the concrete during placement. This method uses water or slurry to maintain stability of the shaft perimeter while advancing the excavation. After the excavation is completed, the water level in the shaft is allowed to seek equilibrium, the base is cleaned, the soldier pile is set and the concrete is discharged at the base using a tremie pipe or concrete pump, displacing the drilling fluid upward.

(3) Temporary Casing Method. Temporary casing shall be used when either the wet or dry methods provide inadequate support to prevent sidewall caving or to ensure there is not excessive deformation of the hole. Temporary casing may also be used to reduce the flow of water into the excavation to allow dewatering, adequate cleaning, or to ensure proper concrete placement.

Temporary casing will not be allowed to remain permanently in place without the approval of the Engineer. Before the temporary casing is broken loose, the level of soldier pile encasement concrete in the casing shall be a minimum of 1.5 m (5 ft) above the bottom of the casing. After being broken loose, and as the casing is withdrawn, additional concrete shall be added to maintain sufficient head so that water and soil trapped behind the casing can be displaced upward and discharged at the ground surface.

No shaft excavation shall be made adjacent to a soldier pile with encasement concrete that has a compressive strength less than 10.35 MPa (1500 psi), nor adjacent to secant lagging until the CLSM has reach sufficient strength to maintain it's position and shape unless otherwise approved by the Engineer. Materials removed or generated from the shaft excavations shall be disposed of by the Contractor according to Article 202.03. Excavation by blasting will not be permitted.

- (b) Drilling Slurry. During construction, the level of the slurry shall be maintained at a height sufficient to prevent caving of the hole. In the event of a sudden or significant loss of slurry to the hole, the construction of that shaft shall be stopped and the shaft excavation backfilled or supported by temporary casing until a method to stop slurry loss, or an alternate construction procedure, has been developed and approved by the Engineer.
- (c) Obstructions. Obstructions shall be defined as any object (such as but not limited to, boulders, logs, old foundations, etc.) that cannot be removed with normal earth drilling procedures, but requires special augers, tooling, core barrels or rock augers to remove the obstruction. When obstructions are encountered, the Contractor shall notify the Engineer and upon concurrence of the Engineer, the Contractor shall begin working to core, break up, push aside, or remove the obstruction. Lost tools or equipment in the excavation, as a result of the Contractor's operation, shall not be defined as obstructions and shall be removed at the Contractor's expense.
- (d) Top of Rock. The top of rock will be considered as the point where rock, defined as bedded deposits and conglomerate deposits exhibiting the physical characteristics and difficulty of rock removal as determined by the Engineer, is encountered which cannot be drilled with earth augers and/or underreaming tools configured to be effective in the soils indicated in the contract documents, and requires the use of special rock augers, core barrels, air tools, blasting, or other methods of hand excavation.
- (e) Design Modifications. If the top of rock elevation encountered is below that estimated on the plans, such that the soldier pile length above rock is increased by more than 10 percent, the Engineer shall be contacted to determine if any soldier pile design changes are required. In addition, if the type of soil or rock encountered is not similar to that shown in the subsurface exploration data, the Engineer shall be contacted to determine if revisions are necessary.
- (f) Soldier Pile Fabrication and Placement. The soldier pile is defined as the structural steel section(s) shown on the plans as well as any connecting plates used to join multiple sections. Cleaning and painting of all steel components, when specified, shall be as shown on the plans and accomplished according to the special provision for "Cleaning and Painting New Metal Structures". This work will not be paid for separately, but shall be considered included in the cost of Furnishing Soldier Piles of the type specified.

The soldier pile shall be shop fabricated such that no field welding is required. The Contractor shall attach suitable bracing or support to maintain the position of the soldier pile within the shaft excavation such that the final location will satisfy the Construction Tolerances portion of this Special Provision. The bracing or supports shall remain in place until the concrete for encasement has reached a minimum compressive strength of 10.35 MPa (1500 psi).

When embedment in rock is indicated on the plans, modification to the length of a soldier pile may be required to satisfy the required embedment. The modification shall be made to the top of the soldier pile unless otherwise approved by the Engineer. When the top of rock encountered is above the estimated elevation indicated on the plans, the soldier piles shall

be cut to the required length. If the top of rock encountered is below that estimated on the plans, the Contractor shall either furnish longer soldier piles or splice on additional length of soldier pile per Article 512.05(b) to satisfy the required embedment in rock. In order to avoid delays, the Contractor may have additional soldier pile sections fabricated as necessary to make the required adjustments. Additional soldier pile quantities, above those shown on the plans, shall not be furnished without prior written approval by the Engineer.

- (g) Concrete Placement. Concrete work shall be performed according to the applicable portions of Section 503 and as specified herein.

The soldier pile encasement concrete pour shall be made in a continuous manner from the bottom of the shaft excavation to the elevation indicated on the plans. Concrete shall be placed as soon as possible after the excavation is completed and the soldier pile is secured in the proper position. Uneven levels of concrete placed in front, behind, and on the sides of the soldier pile shall be minimized to avoid soldier pile movement, and to ensure complete encasement. Concrete shall be placed either by free fall, or through a tremie or concrete pump subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The free fall placement shall only be permitted in shaft excavations that can be dewatered without causing side wall instability and where no more than 75 mm (3 in.) of standing water exists at the time of concrete placement. The maximum height of free fall placement shall not exceed 18.3 m (60 ft.) and the concrete shall be directed to the base to minimize contact with either the soldier pile or the shaft excavation side wall. Drop chutes may be used to direct concrete to the base during free fall placement.
- (2) Tremies shall be according to Article 503.08 and contain no aluminum parts that may have contact with the concrete. The inside and outside surfaces of the tremie shall be clean and smooth to permit both flow of the concrete and unimpeded withdrawal during concrete placement.
- (3) Concrete pumps. Pumps and lines may be used for concrete placement and shall have a minimum 100 mm (4 in.) diameter.

The tremie or pump lines used for wet method concrete placement shall be watertight and shall not begin discharge until placed within 250 mm (10 in.) of the base of the excavation. Valves, bottom plates or plugs may be used only when they can be removed from the excavation unless approved by the Engineer. The discharge end shall be immersed at least 1.5 m (5 ft.) in concrete at all times after starting the pour.

Following the soldier pile encasement concrete pour, the remaining portion of the shaft excavation shall be backfilled with CLSM.

CLSM Secant lagging placement shall be placed as soon as practical after the shaft excavation is cleared.

- (h) Construction Tolerances. The soldier piles shall be drilled and located within the excavation to satisfy the following tolerances:

- (1) The center of the soldier pile shall be within 38 mm (1 1/2 in.) of plan station and 13 mm (1/2 in.) offset at the top of the shaft.
  - (2) The out of vertical plumbness of the soldier pile shall not exceed 0.83 percent.
  - (3) The top of the soldier pile shall be within  $\pm 25$  mm ( $\pm 1$  in.) of the plan elevation.
- (i) **Timber Lagging.** Timber lagging, when required by the plans, installed below the original ground surface, shall be placed from the top down as the excavation proceeds. Lagging shown above grade shall be installed and backfilled against prior to installing any permanent facing to minimize post construction deflections. Over-excavation required to place the timber lagging behind the flanges of the soldier piles shall be the minimum necessary to install the lagging. When the plans require the Contractor to design the timber lagging, the design shall be based on established practices published in FHWA or AASHTO documents considering lateral earth pressure, construction loading, traffic surcharges and the lagging span length(s). The nominal thickness of the lagging selected shall not be less than 75 mm (3 in.) and shall satisfy the minimum tabulated unit stress in bending ( $F_b$ ) stated elsewhere in this Special Provision. The Contractor shall be responsible for the successful performance of the lagging system until the concrete facing is installed. When the nominal timber lagging thickness(s) and allowable stress are specified on the plans, the timber shall be rough cut or surfaced and in accordance with Article 1007.03.
- (j) **Structure Excavation.** When structure excavation is necessary to place a concrete facing, it shall be made and paid for according to Section 502 except that the horizontal limits for structure excavation shall be from the face of the soldier pile to a vertical plane 600 mm (2 ft) from the finished face of the wall. The depth shall be from the top of the original ground surface to the bottom of the concrete facing. The additional excavation necessary to place the lagging whether through soil or CLSM shall be included in this work.
- (k) **Geocomposite Wall Drain.** When required by the plans, the geocomposite wall drain shall be installed and paid for according to Section 591 except that, in the case where a concrete facing is specified on the plans, the wall drain shall be installed on the concrete facing side of the timber lagging with the pervious (fabric) side of the drain installed to face the timber. When a concrete facing is not specified on the plans, the pervious (fabric) side of the drain shall be installed to face the soil. In this case, the drain shall be installed in stages as the timber lagging is installed. The wall drain shall be placed in sections and spliced, or kept on a continuous roll, so that as each timber is placed, the drain can be properly located as the excavation proceeds.

**Method of Measurement.** The furnishing of soldier piles will be measured for payment in meters (feet) along the centerline of the soldier pile for each of the types specified. The length shall be determined as the difference between the plan top of soldier pile and the final as built shaft excavation bottom.

The drilling and setting of soldier piles in soil and rock, will be measured for payment and the volumes computed in cubic meters (cubic feet) for the shaft excavation required to set the soldier piles according to the plans and specifications, and accepted by the Engineer. These

volumes shall be the theoretical volumes computed using the diameter(s) of the shaft(s) shown in the plans and the depth of the excavation in soil and/or rock as appropriate. The depth in soil will be defined as the difference in elevation between the ground surface at the time of concrete placement and the bottom of the shaft excavation or the top of rock (when present), whichever is encountered first. The depth in rock will be defined as the difference in elevation between the measured top of rock and the bottom of the shaft excavation.

Drilling and placing CLSM secant lagging shall be measured for payment in cubic meters (cubic feet) of the shaft excavation required to install the secant lagging as shown in the plans. This volume shall be the theoretical volume computed using the diameter(s) shown on the plans and the difference in elevation between the as built shaft excavation bottom and the ground surface at the time of the CLSM placement.

Timber lagging shall be measured for payment in square meters (square feet) of timber lagging installed to the limits as shown on the plans. The quantity shall be calculated using the minimum lagging length required on the plans multiplied by the as installed height of timbers, for each bay of timber lagging spanning between the soldier piles.

Basis of Payment. The furnishing of soldier piles will be paid for at the contract unit price per meter (foot) for FURNISHING SOLDIER PILES, of the type specified, for the total number of meters (feet) furnished to the job site. The cost of any field splices required due to changes in top of rock elevation shall be paid for according to Article 109.04.

The drilling and setting of soldier piles will be paid for at the contract unit price per cubic meter (cubic foot) for DRILLING AND SETTING SOLDIER PILES (IN SOIL) and DRILLING AND SETTING SOLDIER PILES (IN ROCK). The required shaft excavation, soldier pile encasement concrete and any CLSM backfill required around each soldier pile will not be paid for separately but shall be included in this item.

The timber lagging will be paid for at the contract unit price per square meter (square foot) for UNTREATED TIMBER LAGGING, or TREATED TIMBER LAGGING as detailed on the plans.

The secant lagging will be paid for at the contract unit price per cubic meter (cubic foot) for SECANT LAGGING. The required shaft excavation and CLSM backfill required to fill that excavation shall be included in this item.

Obstruction mitigation shall be paid for according to Article 109.04.

No additional compensation, other than noted above, will be allowed for removing and disposing of excavated materials, for furnishing and placing concrete, bracing, lining, temporary casings placed and removed or left in place, or for any excavation made or concrete placed outside of the plan diameter(s) of the shaft(s) specified.